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are in jail who might better be enjoying such limited freedom as that of one who has otherwise guaranteed his appearance in court when called for.

It is a question how far the Wisconsin idea could be of service in a large city with its greatly congested population but it is at any rate worth some consideration, and as to the rural community, the report from Wisconsin is convincing. We hope to see the day when the use of such a plan as that in Wisconsin may be widely extended. Then with improved jail architecture such as that described by Mr. W. Carby's Zimmerman in the present number we shall be making real progress in the solution of a difficult and complex problem. Movements along such a broad front must of necessity be slow. They must wait on the education of officials and of the general public.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

EFFICIENT PROBATION WORK IN SMALL COMMUNITIES.

In Mr. E. W. Burgess' article, entitled "Juvenile Delinquency in a Small City," in this number of the JOURNAL, it is maintained that "The compensation for the probation officer is so inadequate that only incompetent service can be secured"

It is undoubtedly true that the probation officers in most small communities are inefficient, but it is just as true that in several such communities there is highly efficient probation service, and that the plans which have been worked out there can be applied everywhere.

For example, eight years ago the city government of Evanston, Illinois, (a city of approximately 30,000 inhabitants) and the two Township Boards of Education in Evanston co-operated in employing the same person to attend to truancy and probation cases in that city. As Evanston covers a good deal of territory private individuals supplied an automobile to be used jointly by the probation-truant officer and the visitor for the Evanston Association of Charities. The person who took the position of truant-probation officer at that time held the office for five years and then took an examination for assistant probation officer of the Juvenile Court of Cook County. She stood at the head of the list of the eighty, who, out of the 800 candidates, passed the examination, and now she occupies an executive position in the Cook County Juvenile Court.

Another example of small towns securing efficient service is found in what has been done in the towns between Evanston and Highland Park (including five suburban villages extending along Lake Michigan for a distance of about eight miles). In these towns at once the same person acts as supervisor of the poor, truant officer and probation

officer. The present incumbent of the position made a satisfactory record for several years as probation officer and truant officer, and then was elected by the progressive element in the community as supervisor of the poor.

A remarkable example in Illinois of civic co-operation is found in La Salle, Peru and Oglesby. The story of a part of what has been accomplished there is told by the Federal Bureau of Education in "Rural School Letter, Number 1," under the title "A Township Community Center in Illinois." Dr. Graham Taylor also writes about these towns in the *Survey* of October 17, 1914.

There are other instances than the above of the way that efficiency in probation work has been obtained in small communities simply by co-operation; co-operation of private individuals with public officials and *vice versa*; co-operation of the public officials in the different branches of the government in the same community, and the co-operation of the public officials of neighboring communities.

Concerning the accomplishments of Peru, La Salle and Oglesby Dr. Graham Taylor writes: "All these undertakings have been attempted and achieved in private co-operation, with and under the final authority of the public administration of the township high school and the city councils."

In conclusion, may we say that the cost of divided responsibility for child welfare in any given community is inefficiency unless there is whole hearted co-operation between public and private agencies and between the various public agencies.

JOEL D. HUNTER.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON COMMISSIONER

Mr. John Koren of Boston, has been appointed as International Prison Commissioner for the United States, to succeed the late Professor Charles Richmond Henderson of the University of Chicago. He has been known for many years as a statistician and has been identified with the Bureau of the Census at Washington. In 1891, he was sent abroad as a special agent of the United States Government to study labor conditions.

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ROBERT H. GAULT